

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2016

Town Hall

Chairman James Brochu; Selectman Robert J. Fleming; Selectman Gary Daugherty; Town Manager, Blythe C. Robinson; Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm. Selectman Brochu opened the meeting and after the pledge of allegiance reviewed the agenda.

## **REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

Mr. Brochu asks for a Motion to appoint the Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala, as temporary Chair for the purpose of reorganization of the Board.

**Motion #1:** Member Fleming motioned to appoint Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant as temporary Chair for the purpose of reorganizing the Board of Selectmen.

Second: Member Daugherty, Unanimous Member Brochu.

The Temporary Chair opens the nominations for Chairman of the Board of Selectman and asked if there are any nominations. Member Fleming motioned to nominate Mr. Brochu.

Temporary Chair Hakala, asks if there are any other nominations? Hearing none, Temporary Chair then closed nominations and asked Selectman Fleming for a Motion to appoint James Brochu, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

**Motion # 2:** Member Fleming motioned to nominate Jim Brochu Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Second: Member Daugherty, Majority Action of the Board.

**Motion # 3:** Chairman Brochu motioned to rescind the former motion appointing Sandra Hakala as Temporary Chair for the purpose of reorganizing the Board.

Second: Member Daugherty, Unanimous Member Fleming.

The Board congratulates Chairman Brochu and wishes him well.

Chairman Brochu thanks the Board and commends former member Ken Picard for his many years of service to the Town.

## **MINUTES**

**Motion #4:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to approve the April 19, 2016 regular session meeting minutes.

Majority: Chairman Brochu.

**Motion #5:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to approve the April 19, 2016 executive session meeting minutes.

Majority: Chairman Brochu.

### **INVITED GUESTS**

#### **Jacquelyn Pilot**

Ms. Pilot is a resident of Elm Street and asked to be on the Selectmen's agenda to discuss the status of repaving the street. She inquired as to why the budget for street repairs was low and if Elm Street could be repaired sooner than what is scheduled.

Ms. Piolet commended DPW Roy for his responsiveness and help in having some pot holes repaired. Chairman Brochu reviewed the town's road management plan and explained that the town relies heavily on Chapter 90 monies for road repairs. He agreed that allocation of 500,000 – 600,000 of the operating budget for road repairs does not cover a lot.

Ms. Pilot accepted Ms. Robinson's invitation to meet at a later date to discuss the budget process more in-depth.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

There are a number of upcoming Town events:

- Annual Town Meeting – Thursday, May 5th – Nipmuc High School – 7:00 PM
- Library Book Sale – Risteen Building Lawn - May 21st
- Town Government Day for 3rd Graders – May 25th
- Hazardous Waste Collection Day – DPW Facility - June 4th

The insurance advisory committee met and decided to stay with the current plan design for the HMO and PPO plans provided by the Town; rates will be increasing on July 1st by 12.8%. The Committee did agree to look at the mitigation offered by the Town to transition to plans that impose deductibles, and the committee meets on May 18th to discuss that further.

The Solarize Upton application has been completed by the Green Community Committee and submitted to the State this week. This will give residents interested in putting a solar array on their homes the ability to do so at a lower cost than if they do it on their own, depending on how many people sign up.

Ms. Robinson attended a meeting in Auburn of area Town Managers with the purpose of meeting with the State Commissioners from the Department of Energy Resources and her staff. The Commissioner gave an overview of the status of the Green Community program, took feedback from the 12 communities present about how that program was going, and gave some early information about new programs soon to be announced in the area of energy. One that may be of interest to Upton is a program under which the State will offer grants to pay for 30 – 50% of the cost of the hardware on street lights to convert them to LED technology. There is a catch that the

community must own its lights and presently we do not. But the cost to retrofit them is significant, and a grant such as this might make the decision to purchase a more attractive one.

In the next two weeks the Town's engineering firm will be working on the design of the TIP project and submit the 75% design to the State for review. Staff has been out on the road several times this week field verifying current conditions of pipes, roads, drains to ensure no unforeseen conditions when construction begins in 2019.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **Review the Motions for the May 5th Annual Town Meeting**

The Board reviewed the motions for the annual meeting which have been checked by Town Counsel. The Board of Health intends to pass over the article regarding funds for the Animal Control vehicle. The Board assigned readers to the motions.

#### **Motion to Ratify a successor agreement with Teamster's Local 170 - Supervisors**

Passed over.

#### **Motion to Approve Year End Budget Transfers**

There are several line items in the current year's budget that require transfers prior to the end of the fiscal year in concurrence with the Finance Committee. They are:

TRANSFER #1	\$4,400	Insurance	0100-945-5700-5743	Tax Title Foreclosures	0100-158-5700-5782
TRANSFER #2	\$6,000	Medicare	0100-916-5100-5173	Unemployment Comp.	0100-913-5100-5171
TRANSFER #3	\$4,000	Fire Dept.Fuel	0100-220-5400-5481	Fire Dept. Utilities	0100-220-5200-5210
TRANSFER #4	\$4,000	Insurance	0100-945-5700-5743	Fire Dept. Utilities	0100-220-5200-5210
TRANSFER #5	\$1,000	Building Inspector Expense	0100-241-5400-5421	Code Enforcement Wages	0100-241-5100-5100
TRANSFER #6	\$5,000	DPW Vehicle Fuel	0100-422-5400-5481	DPW Vehicle Maintenance	0100-422-5800-5482
TRANSFER #7	\$750	Town Election	0100-113-5400-5421	Town Clerk Expense	0100-161-5400-5421
TRANSFER #8	\$1,000	Town Building Expense	0100-192-5400-5421	Technology Expense	0100-159-5400-5421

**Motion #6:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to approve the budget transfers as presented.

Second: Selectman Daugherty, Unanimous Chairman Brochu.

#### **Motion to Approve Energy Aggregation Plan**

In late March the Board met with Colonial Power at which time the aggregation plan was presented to the Board and the Green Community Committee. The Board agreed at that time to post the plan on the Town's website for public comment until April 22nd which was done.

The Board completed the next step in the process of offering an alternative energy supplier to residents and businesses by approving the plan.

**Motion #7:** Motion made by Selectman Fleming to approve and acknowledge the Energy Aggregation Plan as presented to the Board.

125 Second: Selectman Daugherty, Unanimous Chairman Brochu.

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128 **ADJOURN MEETING**

129 ***Motion #8:*** At 6:44pm motion was made by Selectman Daugherty to adjourn the regular  
130 meeting.

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132 Second: Selectmen Fleming, Unanimous Chairman Brochu.

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134 Respectfully submitted,

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136 Sandra Hakala  
137 Executive Assistant